

News

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HIGHLIGHTS OF PORTLAND-SALEM, OR-WA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY SEPTEMBER 2000

Workers in the Portland-Salem, Oregon-Washington, metropolitan area averaged \$17.02 per hour during September 2000, according to a new survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Stanley P. Stephenson reported that white-collar workers averaged \$20.68 per hour and accounted for 50 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$14.49 per hour and represented 33 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned \$10.73 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments employing 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 179 firms representing 443,000 workers in the Portland-Salem metropolitan area, which includes Clackamas, Columbia, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington, and Yamhill Counties in Oregon; and Clark, County, Washington. Seventy-six percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Portland-Salem metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 65 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, mechanical engineers averaged \$29.71 per hour; accountants and auditors, \$23.18; licensed practical nurses, \$16.14; and cashiers, \$10.37. Blue-collar occupations included electricians earning \$22.71, truck drivers at \$18.45, construction laborers at \$15.30 per hour, and stock handlers and baggers at \$10.83. In the service occupations, nursing aids, orderlies and attendants averaged \$9.74; early childhood teachers' assistants, \$7.50 per hour; and waiters and waitresses, \$6.68.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See table 2.) For example, full-time employees in the Portland-Salem metropolitan area averaged \$17.51 per hour and part-time workers earned \$12.29. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$16.88 per hour; while their nonunion counterparts made \$12.71.

National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, September 2000 (continued)

The NCS is a part of a statistical program that will eventually integrate three separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgement, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, September 2000 (Bulletin number 3105-78). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the San Francisco Information Office by calling 415-975-4350. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/compub.htm>. Select survey tables can also be obtained from Ready Facts, the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in San Francisco, by dialing 415-975-4567 and requesting document 9530.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the San Francisco Economic Analysis & Information Office at 415-975-4350 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. pacific time.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,(1) all workers:(2) Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, September 2000

Occupation(3)	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All.....	\$17.02	2.8	\$15.91	3.4	\$21.07	3.7
All excluding sales.....	17.16	2.7	16.01	3.3	21.09	3.7
White collar.....	20.68	3.0	19.90	4.0	22.38	3.9
White collar excluding sales.....	21.46	2.7	20.93	3.6	22.40	3.9
Professional specialty and technical.....	25.31	2.1	24.74	3.0	26.06	2.9
Professional specialty.....	26.76	2.2	26.41	3.4	27.16	2.6
Engineers, architects, and surveyors.....	30.65	4.7	31.09	5.1	-	-
Mechanical engineers.....	29.71	7.2	29.71	7.2	-	-
Engineers, n.e.c.....	31.94	9.2	31.94	9.2	-	-
Mathematical and computer scientists.....	29.50	5.7	29.57	6.1	-	-
Computer systems analysts and scientists..	29.92	5.8	30.03	6.2	-	-
Natural scientists.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health related.....	24.22	4.9	24.78	5.6	22.15	8.8
Registered nurses.....	23.65	2.8	23.28	3.0	-	-
Teachers, college and university.....	31.30	6.9	27.25	14.9	32.92	6.6
Other post-secondary teachers.....	24.32	10.6	-	-	24.76	15.3
Teachers, except college and university.....	28.01	2.1	21.38	11.3	28.99	2.0
Elementary school teachers.....	28.65	1.6	-	-	29.04	1.3
Secondary school teachers.....	30.50	1.7	24.20	12.8	30.93	1.7
Teachers, special education.....	23.92	7.7	-	-	-	-
Teachers, n.e.c.....	25.56	8.3	-	-	-	-
Vocational and educational counselors.....	19.70	23.1	-	-	-	-
Librarians, archivists, and curators.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social scientists and urban planners.....	18.94	16.8	-	-	22.92	10.8
Psychologists.....	16.50	14.0	-	-	-	-
Social, recreation, and religious workers.....	17.96	4.5	17.67	7.8	18.14	5.3
Social workers.....	18.50	3.7	-	-	-	-
Lawyers and judges.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.....	23.39	10.7	24.30	12.1	-	-
Technical.....	18.54	4.8	19.28	5.5	16.33	7.3
Licensed practical nurses.....	16.14	5.0	-	-	-	-
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	15.95	6.8	15.90	6.9	-	-
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	31.00	6.7	30.25	8.6	33.07	7.4
Executives, administrators, and managers...	36.68	5.4	36.54	6.7	37.02	9.1
Administrators and officials, public administration.....	42.15	11.2	-	-	42.15	11.2
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations.....	46.59	11.7	46.59	11.7	-	-
Administrators, education and related fields.....	42.64	8.4	32.01	21.5	-	-
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.....	34.49	7.8	35.53	8.7	-	-
Management related.....	21.12	5.4	20.06	4.9	24.61	7.2
Accountants and auditors.....	23.18	7.3	-	-	-	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,(1) all workers:(2) Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, September 2000 (Continued)

Occupation(3)	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
White collar (Continued)						
Sales.....	\$14.68	10.9	\$14.68	11.0	-	-
Supervisors, sales.....	17.15	6.6	17.15	6.6	-	-
Sales workers, other commodities.....	9.05	8.3	8.53	7.2	-	-
Cashiers.....	10.37	6.3	10.28	6.5	-	-
Administrative support, including clerical.....	13.63	2.8	13.68	3.7	\$13.53	3.4
Secretaries.....	14.15	2.6	14.36	3.3	13.81	3.8
Receptionists.....	10.96	6.3	10.96	6.3	-	-
Information clerks, n.e.c.....	14.52	12.2	-	-	-	-
Order clerks.....	11.37	5.6	11.12	5.2	-	-
Library clerks.....	11.35	4.4	-	-	11.35	4.4
Records clerks, n.e.c.....	13.29	3.4	-	-	-	-
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks.....	14.76	5.6	14.69	6.0	-	-
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks.....	14.44	6.4	14.44	6.4	-	-
Stock and inventory clerks.....	12.70	13.2	11.91	12.1	-	-
General office clerks.....	12.21	3.8	12.71	7.3	11.91	3.7
Teachers' aides.....	11.88	5.5	-	-	11.90	5.6
Administrative support, n.e.c.....	14.87	6.2	14.33	7.9	-	-
Blue collar.....	14.49	3.6	14.28	3.8	17.38	4.8
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	17.70	4.9	17.45	5.4	19.82	7.3
Industrial machinery repairers.....	22.04	6.1	22.04	6.1	-	-
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.....	14.45	11.5	-	-	-	-
Electricians.....	22.71	5.6	-	-	-	-
Supervisors, production.....	21.65	8.1	21.65	8.1	-	-
Machinists.....	22.19	10.7	22.19	10.7	-	-
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers.....	10.00	3.7	10.00	3.7	-	-
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	13.71	5.4	13.69	5.5	-	-
Fabricating machine operators, n.e.c.....	15.75	16.5	15.75	16.5	-	-
Printing press operators.....	20.81	10.5	21.34	11.4	-	-
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.....	12.54	5.8	12.54	5.8	-	-
Welders and cutters.....	16.13	4.5	16.13	4.5	-	-
Assemblers.....	12.38	11.1	12.38	11.1	-	-
Miscellaneous hand working, n.e.c.....	8.63	14.2	8.63	14.2	-	-
Transportation and material moving.....	16.03	6.9	16.15	7.7	15.10	6.3
Truck drivers.....	18.45	6.3	18.76	6.5	-	-
Motor transportation, n.e.c.....	11.87	16.5	-	-	-	-
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators.....	12.60	9.1	12.60	9.1	-	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,(1) all workers:(2) Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, September 2000 (Continued)

Occupation(3)	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Blue collar (Continued)						
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	\$11.60	4.8	\$11.29	5.1	\$16.15	3.5
Construction laborers.....	15.30	10.9	15.68	12.3	-	-
Production helpers.....	10.52	9.0	10.52	9.0	-	-
Stock handlers and baggers.....	10.83	10.0	10.83	10.0	-	-
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.....	12.63	9.9	12.63	9.9	-	-
Hand packers and packagers.....	9.97	8.8	9.97	8.8	-	-
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.....	12.40	5.2	11.75	5.9	-	-
Service.....	10.73	4.8	8.88	3.3	17.39	4.8
Protective service.....	14.45	11.9	9.39	8.2	20.53	4.6
Guards and police, except public service....	9.42	7.9	8.86	6.9	-	-
Food service.....	8.32	3.6	8.08	3.2	11.39	9.3
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders.....	6.84	1.7	6.75	1.0	-	-
Waiters and waitresses.....	6.68	1.3	6.68	1.3	-	-
Waiters/Waitresses' assistants.....	7.04	4.4	6.74	1.8	-	-
Other food service.....	9.52	3.4	9.24	2.7	11.86	8.9
Supervisors, food preparation and service..	12.60	5.6	12.60	5.6	-	-
Cooks.....	10.28	5.8	9.56	3.4	-	-
Kitchen workers, food preparation.....	9.40	4.4	-	-	-	-
Food preparation, n.e.c.....	7.79	3.5	7.67	3.5	-	-
Health service.....	9.90	4.2	9.88	4.3	-	-
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants.....	9.74	4.0	9.72	4.0	-	-
Cleaning and building service.....	10.13	10.7	9.54	11.9	12.10	7.2
Janitors and cleaners.....	9.72	10.9	-	-	11.95	7.7
Personal service.....	8.63	7.2	8.17	6.8	12.22	7.7
Early childhood teachers' assistants.....	7.50	4.3	-	-	-	-
Child care workers, n.e.c.....	9.52	13.7	-	-	-	-

1 Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

2 All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

3 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

4 The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a confidence interval around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means not elsewhere classified. Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately. IN THIS SURVEY, THE NONRESPONSE RATE FOR PRIVATE INDUSTRY EXCEEDED REGULAR SURVEY STANDARDS FOR PUBLICATION. ACCORDINGLY, USERS SHOULD INTERPRET THESE RESULTS WITH THIS LIMITATION IN MIND.

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings(1) by occupational group,(2) National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, September 2000

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
All occupations.....	\$17.51	\$12.29	\$18.21	\$16.39	\$16.94	\$21.42
All excluding sales.....	17.65	12.49	18.35	16.50	17.15	-
White collar.....	21.00	16.96	20.13	20.93	20.66	21.46
White-collar excluding sales.....	21.74	18.14	20.54	21.91	21.46	-
Professional specialty and technical.....	25.84	21.28	26.47	24.62	25.31	-
Professional specialty.....	27.07	23.51	27.45	26.28	26.76	-
Technical.....	18.83	17.70	16.43	19.04	18.54	-
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	30.86	-	21.45	33.57	31.00	-
Sales.....	15.25	8.68	12.05	15.08	12.15	21.46
Administrative support, including clerical.....	13.82	11.01	13.60	13.65	13.63	-
Blue collar.....	14.82	10.35	16.88	12.71	14.47	-
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	17.72	-	20.01	15.85	17.64	-
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	13.80	-	16.98	11.92	13.71	-
Transportation and material moving.....	17.09	-	17.34	14.38	16.03	-
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	11.87	9.89	13.43	10.29	11.60	-
Service.....	11.45	7.77	15.69	8.92	10.73	-

1 Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

2 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

3 Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

4 Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

5 Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

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Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings(1) by occupational group,(2) private industry, National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, September 2000

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
Mean					
All occupations.....	\$15.91	\$12.75	\$16.64	\$16.33	\$17.42
All excluding sales.....	16.01	12.83	16.70	16.35	17.49
White collar.....	19.90	16.00	20.63	20.17	21.65
White-collar excluding sales.....	20.93	17.74	21.41	21.16	21.88
Professional specialty and technical.....	24.74	22.20	25.14	23.71	26.57
Professional specialty.....	26.41	23.94	26.70	24.46	29.17
Technical.....	19.28	-	19.16	20.04	18.56
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	30.25	23.25	30.99	31.41	28.99
Sales.....	14.68	12.09	15.76	16.03	-
Administrative support, including clerical.....	13.68	12.45	13.88	14.01	13.58
Blue collar.....	14.28	13.94	14.34	14.63	13.67
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	17.45	18.19	17.31	18.63	14.82
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	13.69	11.31	13.96	14.69	12.98
Transportation and material moving.....	16.15	15.93	16.21	15.47	18.82
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	11.29	10.21	11.46	11.60	10.78
Service.....	8.88	8.02	9.47	9.09	11.62

1 Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

2 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

3 Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

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